

Why can't pike and trout live together in Lake Davis?

There are lakes in Alaska and other areas where northern pike and rainbow trout co-exist. Usually these lakes are relatively large with adequate cool deep waters and limited aquatic vegetation zones around the edge of the lake. The deep cool waters of these lakes have enough oxygen to support trout year round. The limited areas of vegetation reduce predation by pike on the trout. Since the vegetated area is small, trout are less likely to be feeding there, and the limited amount of vegetation limits the pike population, reducing their impact on the trout.

Lake Davis is a relatively shallow reservoir with large amounts of vegetation. Average depth of the lake is less than 20 feet and we estimate that aquatic vegetation covers about 30 % of its area. There are very limited areas where trout can live safe from pike predation.

The large areas of aquatic vegetation in Lake Davis provide ideal habitat for northern pike. The aquatic vegetation is an important factor in all but the large adult stages of the northern pike. Juvenile and young northern pike stay in the more shallow areas of the vegetated areas of the lake foraging on invertebrates, smaller fish and amphibians, and cannibalizing on their own. As the pike mature and become larger adults, greater than 20 inches, they move into the deeper vegetated areas. Trout swim throughout the aquatic vegetation foraging on damsel larvae, midge larvae and aquatic snails. While the trout move through the vegetation foraging, they in turn become forage for the larger adult pike lying in wait in the vegetation.

Having pike in Lake Davis greatly increases the risk that pike will move downstream either naturally or be illegally moved by humans to other California waters.



Catch a pike? Kill it and call 1-888-CALTip and leave a message, or call our office at (530) 832-9682. You can also turn the fish in to Grizzly Store at Lake Davis or Dollard's Sierra Market in Portola.

California Department of Fish and Game - Portola Field Office - 209 Commercial Street - P.O. Box 1858 - Portola, CA 96122 –
(530) 832-4067 - www.dfg.ca.gov/northernpike